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# FRONTIERS of SCIENCE

# The Riddle of the Sphinx

## THE MONSTER OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN

## *Zecharia Sitchin: Sumer and the 12th Planet*

## IS PSYCHO-TRONIC WAR INEVITABLE?

New Date for Exodus...Sphinx a Natural Formation...Marduk Myth...
Oldest Village Discovered...Asteroid Prevention...Betty Cash
Encounter...Klass Dismissed...

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

## E D I T O R I A L

Despite the derision of scoffers and skeptics, truly puzzling UFO cases which defy explanation in conventional terms continue to accumulate, as exemplified by those described in this issue. Yet the existence of such true UFO cases is something like having an itch that one can't reach to scratch . . . it's frustrating and very uncomfortable! While the "unexplained" in any area of human experience ought to be a challenge to the ability to inquire, that challenge has virtually never been taken up by the very people who are capable, by virtue of their training in various disciplines of human learning, of unravelling the mystery.

By default, in short, the subject of UFOs has not been treated professionally, but has been left to highly interested, enthusiastic volunteer investigators. They lack the time and the funds, and unfortunately often the training, to do the job that is required. These volunteers have done a yeoman job as far as they have been able . . . but would we ever have gotten to the moon if the job had been left to volunteer, unpaid workers who are usually available only on weekends?

Probably very little can be accomplished in ufology unless it becomes a profession in itself. This profession would study the total phenomenon we call UFOs, which, contrary to much popular opinion, is *not* the study of little green men from outer space, but of the continuous flow of UFO reports, their contents and the people who make them, from all parts of the world. Particularly those reports made by multiple, independent, technically competent witnesses should be the focus of professional attention.

Fortunately, the very fact that UFOs refuse to disappear from the world scene, despite the mockery of the scoffers, increasingly attracts the attention of inquiring scientists. It is these scientists who will eventually transform ufology into a profession.

*The material in this section has been prepared by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center for UFO Studies, an international association of scientists and others seriously interested in the UFO phenomenon. Through the cooperation of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and its network of investigators, and of other UFO investigative groups both in the United States and abroad, and through the work of its own investigators, the Center offers the following as its contribution to the responsible reporting of the world-wide UFO phenomenon.*

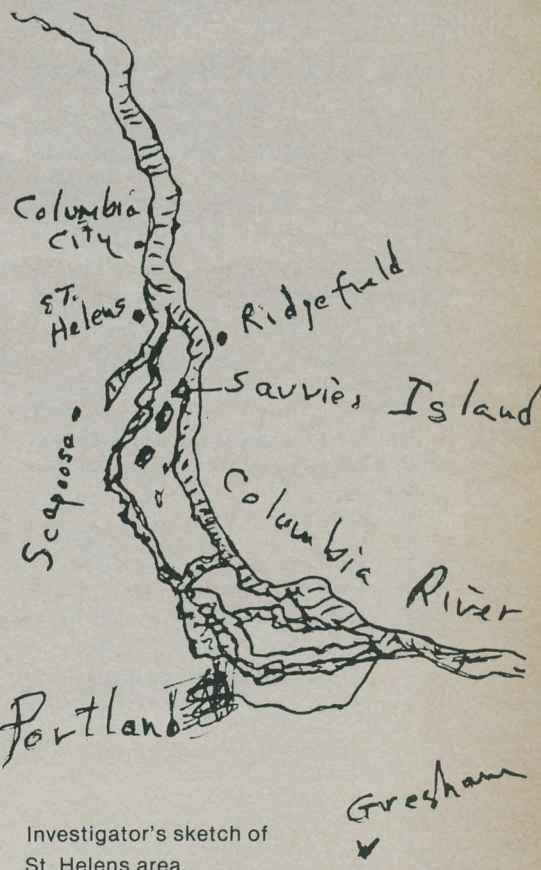
*The Center maintains a 24-hour UFO hotline for the exclusive use of U.S. law enforcement agencies, Federal Aviation Agency facilities, planetaria and other formal channels. The Center also maintains a computerized databank (UFOCAT). For more information about the activities of the Center, communicate directly with Dr. Hynek, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Ill. 60204.*

## An Orange (!) Ball at St. Helens for St. Patrick

*The following sighting was called to our attention by Mr. Larry Roberts, announcer at radio station KXL, Portland, Oregon who was a student in my astronomy class at Northwestern a dozen years ago. Apparently he remembered my UFO lectures! It is a multiple, independent witness case but one which required much tedious "detective" work by Paris Allen Braden, of Sandy, Oregon to bring the many bits and pieces together. As in many other investigations there was the gamut of admissions and denials, of witnesses at first open but later made reluctant to talk by ridicule and harassment from friends and strangers alike, reduced to resentful defiance, and wishing at the end to have little further to do with the case. This tries the patience and understanding of the investigator. Even now the case cannot be considered complete; undoubtedly other facets have yet to surface.*

**TYPE:** CE I
**DATE:** March 17, 1981
**TIME:** 4:10 a.m. PST
**DURATION:** 35 minutes +
**WITNESSES:** Several police officers and civilians
**PLACE:** St. Helens, Oregon

You are an avid CB operator used to being up at all hours. It is shortly after 4 a.m. You get a call on the CB from a police officer on the Oregon side of the Columbia River (you live on the Washington bank of the river) asking, "Do you see that light I see in your direction, or am I crazy?" You open the window and there, high above you, is an intense white light, getting so bright that it lights up the trees, the yard, and the surroundings. So bright, in fact,




Investigator's sketch of St. Helens area.

that the birds think daylight has come and start to sing!

(Apparently, however, this is not the same light Officers Yokum and McKartney have seen in the direction of the power lines on Sauvies Island, as the line-of-sight directions do not fully agree. We focus on the one CBer Don Atkins ("Lucky 13") is describing.)

The bright white light glides over the river and emits a high-pitched, screaming whine you can't identify. You grab your CB mike, hold it out the window and broadcast the sound over the CB. A patrol car on the other side of the river records it! You also photograph the object, (but not until its bright white light has changed to a dimmer orange-red) on the last frame on the roll in your Instamatic 110. (The Center had the film developed by Gamma Co. in Chicago, but the frame was completely blank.)

Officers Yokum and McKartney were now joined by Officer Cade at 4:20 a.m. The three officers observed one object over the power lines at Sauvies Island and a second object just off the bank of the Columbia River at Ridgefield, Washington, some three miles away. The first object reportedly remained stationary throughout all this. Very little was said about it. One officer maintained that the light might have been part of a structure in that vicinity, but this has been stoutly denied on the grounds that this light too disappeared in time, and that there was no structure there!

IUR has been fortunate to obtain the entire fifty minute recording of the CB broadcast. Here are a few excerpts from the tape that capture some of the excitement of the moment. There was much talk on the tape from local CBers who had picked up on the disturbance and who joined in with the officers in trying to fathom what the mysterious lights were:

"You guys still watching on the other side of the river?"

"Looks like the sun coming up, but it's too early for that . . ."

"How close is it to your house?"

"It came right over it."

"It's revving up its engines . . . can you hear it? Sounds like a power plant Diesel motor with a screeching noise in between . . ."

[IUR is seeking to have an audio spectrogram made of this noise to find how it compares with that of jet engines and other possible sources.]

"It's shutting down . . . seems like he's cutting it down. It's 4:29 a.m. for the record."

"A quieter noise now, but still loud . . ."

"Just where are you guys at?"

"I'm at Ridgefield . . ."

"Which side of the river is it on?"

"It's over the river . . . not in the center, but it's over the river . . .came out of the sky when I first seen it and lit up everything around like it was daylight . . ."

"Well, it's still there . . . glowing like crazy . . ."

"Sure broke up a boring night . . ."

"Is it moving?"

"No, it's still sitting there right in the same spot [about sixty to eighty feet above the water]."

"I mean it went out right now. It just disappeared . . . just now . . ."

"It's 4:43 a.m."

"I didn't see anything go up in the air, and I've got a good shot of the sky."

"We just got information that they got it on radar but it went out of sight . . ."

"I've never seen anything like that before . . ."

"I seen it disappear and then there was one bloody noise . . ."

"Nobody will be able to say we're nuts . . . too many of us saw it . . ."

"Lucky, if you're crazy, then the rest of us are too. OSP [Oregon State Police] just said they saw it too . . ."

"Lucky . . . tell us just how it all happened. From Point A to Point Z . . ."

Lucky: "Bright light came down from the sky. First someone made mention [on the CB] of a bright light in the sky . . . so I opened the window and looked out. It slowed down . . . stopped . . . then it started going down some more and then it just sit there like it was going to take a nap. Then the light turned to orange, and it stayed orange the rest of the time. But when it was coming down it lit up everything around me."

*"It wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a jet and it damn sure wasn't the Goodyear blimp."*

At one time during the episode Officer McKartney, of the Oregon State Police, radioed the Portland International Airport. The tower replied, "Yes, we do have the object on radar." After some five minutes he asked whether they still had the object on radar. Now the tower replied, "No, we have never had an object on radar." Officers McKartney, Yokum and Cade, and the other officers who observed this incident were flabbergasted. Why had the tower suddenly reversed itself?

At 4:43 a.m. the Ridgefield, Washington object (Lucky's light) disappeared. The thought that it might have fallen into the river prompted calls to the Coast Guard. At about 5 a.m. the stationary light on Sauvies Island faded and was not seen again. But at 5:26 the UFO noise started anew. At this time Officer McKartney radioed to Officer Yokum, "You'd better get back up here fast. Something's not right." He did so, and later stated to investigator Braden, "We could not see the object, only a glow and a fog bank."

At 5:33, glow and noise disappeared but a most curious thing happened. Two projectile-shaped columns of clear blue sky appeared right in the middle of the fog bank.

"It scared the hell out of me," McKartney said of the whole event, "I had a sense of fear running through me, or bewilderment and I know that

## KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

A "UFO" is any anomalous aerial phenomenon whose appearance and/or behavior cannot be ascribed to conventional, natural or man-made sources after study by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original witness(es) may lack.

Abbreviations used in this section follow six categories of UFO reports developed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek:

**NL:** Nocturnal Light. Any distant anomalous source (usually illuminated) seen in the night sky.

**DD:** Daylight Disc. Any distant objects (often disc-shaped) seen under daylight conditions.

**RV:** Radar/Visual. UFOs seen simultaneously by vision and radar; good agreement between the two is essential.

**CE I:** Close Encounter of the First Kind. UFO seen within five hundred feet.

**CE II:** Close Encounter of the Second Kind. CE I that influences the environment, including physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic interferences.

**CE III:** Close Encounters of the Third Kind. CE I or II associated with creatures ("UFOnauts").

what I was observing was not of this earth. It wasn't a helicopter, it wasn't a jet, and it damn sure wasn't the Goodyear blimp."

The St. Helens incident on St. Patrick's Day received much, largely unwanted, publicity. Yet no one brought to his attention or to that of news reporters any valid suggested cause for the episode. One would certainly think that had the event a prosaic explanation, such as a test of new equipment or even a military exercise, that even fragmentary information about such would have come forth. Nor did any other witnesses to this specific event come forward.

What was it that frightened and awed several seasoned officers and some civilians as well? And was this event related to anomalous phenomena reports from nearby towns earlier that week, or from two towns fifty and sixty miles away during the time frame of this event? Phone calls by myself to witnesses in these nearby towns failed to convince me that this or a very similar object was involved.

The initial rapid motion of the principal light, its prolonged hovering over water, part of the time noiselessly, its orange-red color and, of course, the numerous witnesses to the event give this case a fairly high strangeness-credibility rating. Except in certain aspects, it was not a unique event. Orange-red balls of light that meander through the night have been reported often before, especially in isolated forest regions. And the event might be related to a very credibly witnessed private letter from a physicist at the University of Arizona in 1978:

> "At about 8 p.m. against a black November sky we saw what appeared to be a bright meteor burning out, in a nearly vertical trajectory toward us. I pointed this out to my wife and then we both watched it slow down (to our amazement) to nearly a stop, slowly turn through hues of orange into a ruby red color (very beautiful), now slowly drift off to the southwest, again slowly turn back to white, then slowly turn back to ruby red (each color change taking about a full second) with finality, and drift off to the southwest until it disappeared from view behind the Tucson mountains. The whole sighting lasted about twenty minutes. I also observed the object through a small telescope, after running home. It only resembled a bright, ruby-red point source.
>
> "Through the years I have tried to find a natural or technological explanation for this sighting but to no avail. Remarkably, only about two years ago I met a Lunar and Planetary Lab scientist who also saw a huge, red ball hovering over his telescope dome (!) in the Catalina Mountains north of Tucson, just about the same date as my sighting. It also moved slowly. He hadn't told anyone about it because of possible ridicule."

It is indeed a sad commentary on the myopic outlook of the public and scientists alike that a recognized scientist should fear ridicule by reporting a scientific observation, only because it is odd! How many events like this and the St. Helens sighting may have gone unreported because of this rabid intolerance for the new and unusual?

## Physical Effects, Helicopters and a Fiery UFO

*The following CE-II event was investigated primarily by John Schuessler and Alan Holt, both of NASA. Preliminary results were transmitted to us through their kindness. Allan Hendry was asked by the Fund for UFO Research to make additional investigations. The event was first reported to Mr. Gribble of Phenomena Research (Seattle) by one of the principal witnesses (after an unfortunate delay of several weeks), who in turn notified APRO, who passed it on to MUFON and thence to Mr. Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON. At the time of this writing (April 1981), the investigation is still in progress, and may continue for some time, but it has proceeded to the point at which it is obvious that we have here a truly significant event, one which, should it prove to have been a deliberate military exercise, raises some crucial legal and political problems in view of the injuries sustained by the witnesses, resulting in long term illness and the loss of a business venture by one of them.*

**TYPE:** CE-II
**DATE:** December 29, 1980
**TIME:** Approx. 9 p.m. CST
**DURATION:** 10 to 15 minutes
**WITNESSES:** 3 (2 adult women and a 7-year old boy)
**PLACE:** Near Huffman, Texas (about 20 miles northeast of Houston)

What makes this a CE-II is that all three witnesses and their car were physically affected: Serious loss of hair, impaired eyesight, blisters and swelling of flesh, headaches, vomiting, loss of appetite on the part of the adult witnesses and a very rapid heating of metal parts of the car (as though it had been placed in a microwave oven).

The witnesses had all been in excellent health before the event. At the time of writing, some three months later, the adult witnesses are still under medical care. The car, a 1980 Cutlass Supreme, had been in top condition but after the event was reported to be running roughly.

## The Encounter

What do you do if you are driving along, accompanied by another adult and a young boy, all in good spirits, about 9 o'clock on a calm but overcast night, when you suddenly see a bright light rushing down from the cloudy, dark sky, belching fire and accompanied by a "whooshing" sound, and it then hovers so low over the road that you realize that you can't safely pass under it?

You stop, of course. But do you get out and make a run for it, or do you stay cooped in the car?

In this case, the adults compromise; they open the doors, step out, but hug the car, too afraid to run. Seven-year old Colby, meanwhile, is screaming in terror, begging them to get back in. The diamond-shaped, brilliantly illuminated object hovers, beeping all the while, but whooshing when it belches flames. There it is, at tree-top level (trees lined both sides of the road), "as large as the city water tank" and blocking their way like some fiery dragon for several minutes.

Finally it starts to glide away, rising above a line of trees. But something has happened to the car; the door handles are so hot that a jacket must be used as a "pot-holder," and the interior of the car is so hot that the air conditioner must be turned on. Yet the evening is cool, about forty degrees. And now a new surprise: as the bright glare recedes, a horde of helicopters is revealed, pursuing and flying around the craft.

The whole thing sounds like a bad dream. But the worst is yet to come. At

home, within thirty minutes after the event, the driver develops blisters on her head and face and her eyes begin to swell closed. It is nearly a week before Betty can open her eyes. In the days after, large patches of her hair come out and her face begins to peel. She suffers from headaches, frequent vomiting and an almost total loss of appetite.

Her friend Vicky has been the most frightened of the three. A very religious person, she interprets the event as the Second Coming and is entirely beside herself. She was outside the car for a shorter time than Betty. Probably as a consequence of this her injuries are less, yet she temporarily loses the sight of one eye, which drains constantly. She also loses hair, although not as much as Betty did.

It was Vicky who insisted that Betty go to the hospital. She remained there for fifteen days, only to return for another spell a few days later. Her mother came to Texas from Alabama to care for her. Betty is at this writing living with her mother in Alabama. Unable to work, she lost her small restaurant business, and is constantly tired and subject to headaches. But her hair is finally growing back.

The doctors were unable to diagnose the cause of Betty's difficulties, as standard tests did not reveal any obvious source of her physical troubles. She finally decided to tell the doctors of the UFO experience and reported that they "felt relieved" to hear the story. Apparently, it aided in their diagnosis!

The effects of the encounter on Colby were more mental than physical, although he suffered stomach aches and very severe diarrhea. Colby was subject to terrifying nightmares and bed wetting for weeks afterward.

## Discussion

There appear to be only two possible explanations of this event: a military exercise or a true UFO. Hoax or simple misidentification have been conclusively ruled out by the experienced investigators.

There is much to favor the military explanation, and the adult witnesses "buy" this interpretation fully. The presence of the fleet of helicopters strongly suggests that it may fit. But where did they come from? Attempts to garner this information from military bases have been fruitless. Yet if the exercise was so very secret, why, with all the vast open spaces of Texas, would the military choose to zoom their device down upon helpless citizens, not only frightening them beyond their wits but inflicting grievous damage?

Could it have been a device designed to seek out and destroy the enemy which somehow got out of control and thus sought out its victims? This would constitute grave irresponsibility on the part of the military and a total disregard for human welfare. If such a case could be established, these hapless human targets would have unimpeachable grounds for a major lawsuit against the government.

On the other hand, the entire incident is reminiscent of the Socorro, New Mexico sighting of 1964, which had it occurred at night rather than during broad daylight, would have appeared much like this. It, too, featured rapid descent from the sky, flames coming from beneath accompanied by a roaring sound, and the attendant heating and scorching of the surroundings. At that time the Air Force Intelligence did its best to solve the case as a man-made device, with no success whatsoever. It remains to this day "unidentified."

If the Huffman case represents a true UFO, then it has all the earmarks of having been "staged," the UFO deliberately seeking an "audience." This has been the earmark of many other cases in the past. The UFO event does not always seem to occur at random. What now of the helicopters, whose presence seems unequivocally established? How were they alerted, where did they come from, and how did they get there so quickly?

This is only a progress report. Investigation is on-going, and other witnesses to this event are being sought. Some have already been found. In any event, man-made or not, this is a case which must not be glossed over. Medical records are being studied and the welfare of the three victims (whether of men or UFOnauts!) will be monitored. Vicky is keeping a daily log of possibly related events. Mr. Schuessler and Mr. Holt plan to actively follow up on the case. If the government is responsible for this outrageous attack, the facts must be publicly disclosed and appropriate action taken; if it is an extraterrestrial matter, it is certainly of no less importance!

Allan Hendry, after careful interrogation of six installations from which helicopters conceivably could have come, chalked up a zero score. No one admitted to having helicopters in that area that night and all disavowed any sort of military exercise. The military pointed out quite logically that December 29, the date of the event, was a most unlikely time for an exercise of that sort since a large part of their staffs would have been on Christmas leave. Yet all three witnesses swear they clearly saw a contingent of helicopters!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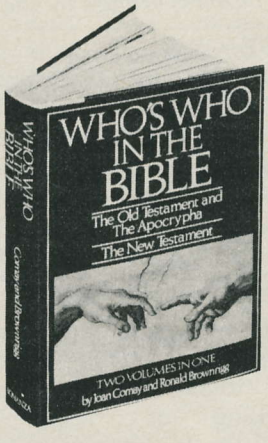
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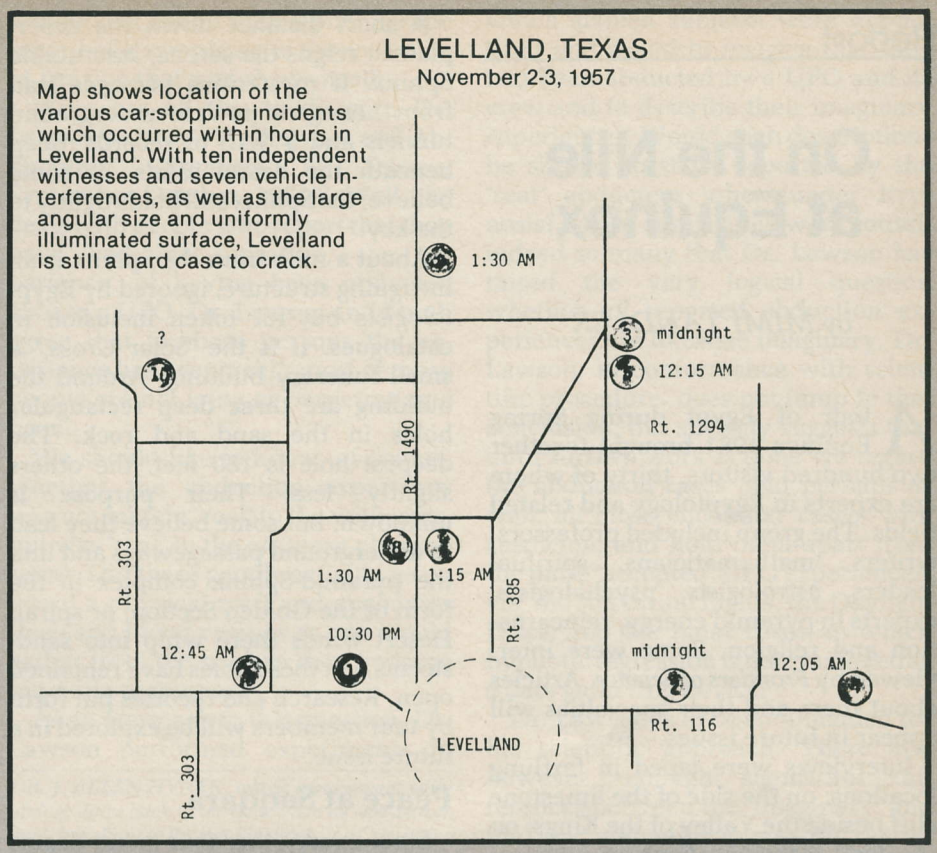
# The Ten Best UFO Cases

## UFOS AND THE LIMITS OF SCIENCE
**by Ronald D. Story (with J. Richard Greenwell)**
*New York: William Morrow, 1981, 290 pp., $12.95*




*IT SEEMS* clear that the original incentive, or intent, for this book was to obtain a concensus from recognized ufologists on the ten best UFO cases in history, although the title promises a much broader perspective. The difficulty in obtaining a concensus from ufologists on this matter apparently led to a consideration of the nature of the UFO data available, and the scope and limits of the scientific method when applied to such data. This broader perspective is much to be welcomed; only a quarter of the book is devoted to the "ten best cases."

UFO investigators are frequently asked (especially on radio talk shows!) "What is the best UFO case you have ever found?" I have been asked that question a very great many times. I might just as well be asked, "What is the best meal you've ever eaten?" without specifying French, German, Mexican, Japanese, southern American or New England cuisine, or whether I enjoyed it the most because I was ravenously hungry at the time, or because of the company I was with.

I also dislike lists of the "ten best" of anything, whether it's movies, best-dressed people, or records (phonograph or otherwise). Thus when Ron Story wrote asking me to pick the ten best UFO cases I had found (out of the thousands I have examined over the past thirty years), I was one of the fifty or so of ninety enquirees who didn't respond. This was no reflection on Mr. Story, for whom I have a high regard. And it was not because I wasn't aware of his objective which was, I am sure, to show once and for all that UFOs are for real; to dispel the Sagan cliché that "there are no interesting cases that are reliable and no reliable cases that are interesting." Or to put it in Story's own words, "If anyone were to 'debunk' or explain in prosaic terms – to my satisfaction – all ten of the foregoing cases, I, personally, would no longer regard the UFO phenomenon as worthy of serious study, except in the realm of the behavioral sciences."

Story found that his respondees didn't agree among themselves as to the "ten best," so he states, "In the absence of a clear concensus on behalf of the 'experts,' I was forced to make my own selection of those cases I felt were the strangest on record and which constitute a legitimate challenge to science."

At this juncture, I imagine Story's attitude toward his original intention began to change. It was not a clear-cut, open and shut case. "Challenge to science" now becomes the focus, and a consideration of whether the subject of UFOs is, after all, amenable to the scientific method. Under what conditions does something constitute a challenge to science? First of all, it must be something that captures the interest of the scientist (after all, the operational definition of science is "Science is what a scientist does") and it must be something whose investigation in this day and age can be funded (a scientist doesn't do what he can't afford to do, no matter how interesting it may be). Secondly, it must be something to which the scientific method can be applied, Now, this enormously restricts the field. Certainly, most of our pressing social, economic and moral problems are not amenable to the traditional procedures of science.

The demands of science, before a subject is admitted onto the "playing field," are that a phenomenon or an experiment be repeatable, and the same results be obtained by whatever qualified persons repeat the work (this is the dilemma of the proponents of ESP and the paranormal . . . there may exist an entire set of phenomena related to the human psyche which are not amenable to strict laboratory conditions but nonetheless may be quite "real"). In science, furthermore, prediction is a cardinal element. In a sense the scientific method can be summed up in "IF such and such is so, THEN such and such will happen," and the proper laboratory experiments or observations will either confirm or negate that prediction. [It is this broad area of human experience which is, of course, the mainstay of this publication, *Frontiers of Science*. It is dedicated to those aspects of human experience which have not yet been "admitted" to respectability in the court of science but some of which may someday be the very core of scientific thought. The history of science is replete with such examples.]

*Continued on page 43*

*Ten Best from page 15*

UFO events are unpredictable. Their recording is largely through human perception and testimony, and the contents of the reports do not "fit" the present scientific paradigm. This is ample to throw the UFO case out of the scientific court, but not out of the domain of human interest and, indeed, not out of the domain of the interest of many individual scientists!

In recent years, a reluctant but growing interest has surfaced in the UFO phenomenon on the part of an increasing number of scientists in various disciplines. This is evident, for example, by the willingness of some forty scientists to act as the Scientific Board of the Center for UFO Studies, and an equal or greater number to be part of organizations like MUFON or APRO. Further, the recent publication in the Soviet Union of *Observations of Anomalous Atmospheric Phenomena in the USSR: Statistical Analysis* published by the Institute of Space Research of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, clearly indicates interest in UFOs (known as A.A.P.'s in the U.S.S.R.) on the part of some Soviet scientists.

Let us look now at Story's own "ten best." They are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Nash-Fortenberry | Newport News, Virginia | July 14, 1952 |
| USAF-RAF | Bentwaters-Lakenheath, England | Aug. 13-14, 1956 |
| Salaz, *et al.* | Levelland, Texas | Nov. 2-3, 1957 |
| Father Gill | Boianai, Papua | June 26, 1959 |
| Betty and Barney Hill | Whitefield, New Hampshire | Sep. 19, 1961 |
| Muscarello, *et al.* | Exeter, New Hampshire | Sep. 3, 1965 |
| Spaur-Neff | Ravenna, Ohio | Apr. 17, 1966 |
| Captain Coyne | Mansfield, Ohio | Oct. 18, 1973 |
| Iran Air Force | Teheran, Iran | Sep. 18, 1976 |
| Fogarty-Startup | Kaikoura, New Zealand | Dec. 30-31, 1978 |

*NATURALLY,* I do not agree with the entire list, mainly because I would have chosen only those which I had personally investigated. Of this list I was intimately connected with but two; however, I was involved to a fair degree in four others.

One is struck immediately with the age of the cases; most of them have been "done to death" in the literature and so the experienced reader will learn little new about them from this book. Hasn't anything exciting happened since 1978? True 1973 was the year of the last "flap" in the United States, but there have been many both exciting and reliable cases here since then.

"UFO doldrums" have set in. Thirty years of financially unsupported investigations have sapped the enthusiasm of some of the older investigators and their frustration has had a chilling effect on the recruitment of young blood. With present economic conditions, it has become increasingly hard to ask volunteer investigators to use their own gasoline, telephones, and yes, even postage, for in-depth investigations. Half-hearted investigations do not lead to inclusion on anyone's list of "ten best."

*STORY'S* "ten best" brought many memories back to me. I was associated with Project Blue Book when seven of the ten came prominently into the news. The chronological list above is also a chart of my slow change from complete skeptic to one who now holds that the UFO phenomenon is very, very real. My interviews with the Hills, with Father Gill and with Captain Coyne, for example, will always remain vivid memories.

The fact is that although classic rather than relatively recent cases were chosen, these ten give the lie to the cliché that "no interesting cases are reliable, and no reliable cases are interesting." No one has come up with a viable explanation for any of these ten, let alone the hundreds of others one might have nominated for inclusion.

*WHAT I* feel is the core of the book, though it may not have been so intended, is the chapter called, "The Elusive Hard Data." Here we come face to face with the charge that after thirty years or more of dealing with UFO reports we still have no really convincing "hard data," i.e., parts of a UFO, unimpeachable residues from soil samples, unequivocal evidence that a UFO caused damage to animate or inanimate matter. Yet the fact is that we *do* have large amounts of such evidence. It has never been documented to the satisfaction of the scientific community. Why not?

Here Story and others utterly fail to take into account the almost complete lack not only of professional, systematic, sequential laboratory analysis but the professional effort to gather such evidence in the field.

I grow livid when such charges of "no data" are made. After years of frustration without the funds to pay for adequate laboratory and other professional work, I bristle at the lack of understanding on the part of the scientific skeptics who wouldn't get to first base without well funded research projects with staff, travel and laboratory facilities. Not one of the "near hard data" cases, such as Delphos and a host of others, ever had adequate treatment and follow up. Not one has ever had the benefit of an "FBI-type" investigation, in which a crime lab, operatives and travel were available to follow through a given case.

I have often speculated that if a UFO sighting had been an integral part of a presidential assasination, a Brinks robbery, an interstae smuggling or counterfeit ring, a kidnapping of a prominent socialite, then no cost would have been spared to get the "hard data" necessary. But without such incentives for investigation, all we have are abortive, often amateurish, attempts at data gathering, data analysis, and feeble attempts at laboratory studies (on a charity basis of course), all of which dwindle into inconclusion and frustration.

Perhaps the best tests carried out in a physical trace case were those made by Dr. Farouk in his chemistry laboratory in Birmingham, England. His preliminary results showed the presence in the affected soil of an unstable chemi-luminescent substance (which a Kansas farmer could hardly obtain at the corner drugstore) whose presence was determined only after long and tedious quantitative tests. Unfortunately, before Dr. Farouk could properly identify the substance, his livelihood demanded that he transfer to another university which did not have the required facilities.

How great it would be, the next time a similar case occurs, to be able to command (and pay for) a thorough, professional study of properly collected, uncontaminated samples (and control samples) of the materials relevant to establishing the hard data.

It is my contention that "hard" data may well have been present in many UFO cases but that their discovery and definitive establishment has repeated-

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ly gone by default for lack of professional (funded) treatment. It has always been a case of "too little and too late," necessitated by the use of volunteers bolstered only by their unselfish dedication to the pursuit of an overwhelming mystery.

The book closes with a brief look at current theories of UFOs, at the evaluation of witness credibility, and finally, at the questioned ability of science to cope with as elusive a phenomenon as the UFO represents. That is, even if the elusive hard data were amply at hand, it might serve to establish beyond all doubt the reality of the UFO phenomenon, but still might not meet standard scientific requirements of repeatability and compatability with present scientific concepts. Story concludes with the thought that the UFO phenomenon belongs more to the philosophy of science than to science itself.

*THE BOOK* represents a valuable addition to UFO literature and certainly helps to restore a bit of balance between serious attention to the problem and the flood of "fast-buck" literature that only helps "convince" the scientific world that UFOs are nonsense. And it may encourage the growing number of persons, scientists and others alike, who are recognizing that the UFO phenomenon, whatever its cause, has now been with us in force for over thirty years, the evidence has not gone away, and is merely waiting for courageous investigators. Let us hope that in due time they can be given the tools to do the job properly. □

*Marduk* *from page 42*

comets are composed of the same gases found in the atmospheres of the outer planets, many scientists believe they are eruptions from those planets.

*SITCHIN* claims the major turning points in earth's history took place every 3,600 years, coinciding exactly with Marduk's return to our solar system. One can neither verify nor disprove his dates for events like the Ice Age, or the Neolithic Age. Recognized historians have differed by thousands of years when placing the ages of prehistory. But Sitchin's dates for more recent events conflict with the record of history.

He says that Marduk's "ancient astronauts" returned to earth and taught the *Enuma Elish* to the Sumerians, around 3,800 B.C. He does not mention that most historians believe the *Enuma Elish* is a Babylonian, not a Sumerian, myth. Professor Samuel Noah Kramer, whom Sitchin calls "one of the great Sumerologists of our time" and cites as one of his principal sources, is convinced the *Enuma Elish* was written in Babylonia around 2,000 B.C. Sitchin does say that the Babylonian text of the myth is only a "masterful forgery" of a lost Sumerian original, but he offers no evidence to support this claim.

Even accepting Sitchin's date would create problems. If Marduk last approached the earth in 3,800 B.C., it should have returned 3,600 years later, in 200 B.C. Yet history records no such appearance.

Did Marduk remain constant in its 3,600-year cycle throughout the unrecorded millenia of prehistory, and fail to return only after man began keeping historical records? Does Sitchin claim that Marduk changed its orbit?

Not at all. He expects Marduk and its astronauts to return, right on schedule. "What will happen when they are encountered again?" he asks, at the conclusion of his book. What happened in 200 B.C., and why Marduk failed to return then, are questions he never even raises.

*SOME* of Sitchin's readers have compared him to Immanuel Velikovsky or Erich von Däniken. In fairness, the latter two and their theories should be judged on their own merits, not discredited by association with so obviously faulty a theory. □

*—IVAN BACHUR*

*Consciousness* *from page 39*

*I PREDICT* that Wilber will soon be recognized as the originator of a new world view affecting our academic, social, medical, religious and scientific institutions as profoundly as did those of Freud, Marx and Einstein. Not the least important aspect of that world view is that we now have a theoretical framework which allows for psychic and paranormal phenomena in a way that is congruous with the most advanced work in physics, biology and sociology. □

*—JOHN WHITE*

*JOHN WHITE is the author of* PoleShift *(Doubleday, 1979),* A Practical Guide to Death and Dying *(Quest, 1980) and many articles dealing with consciousness research and parascience. He is a* Frontiers of Science *advisor.*□